

### Archibald Flanagan Home

The Archibald Flanagan homeplace is located on the Chinquapin Road, a couple of miles from the Wesley Church Road and parallel to it. Wesley Church road is about one mile from the Farmville town limits and the Chinquapin Road, State Road 1218, is a mile or two further from Farmville.

The house was built by Archibald H. Flanagan as a home for his large farm family about 200 years ago and was typical of farm homesteads of the day. Archibald and his wife, Mary Bell had ten children, a nominal number for the period, eight of whom survived to maturity. The house was designed as many were of the day with a two story main house and a separate kitchen. The kitchens were separated for practical reasons; to keep the house cool in the summer and for protection should the kitchen catch on fire. Kitchen fires were common because of the cooking methods used.

The house had a large porch across the front with an imposing front door and a separation from the kitchen which likely was an open area initially to provide more separation from the rest of the house. Often this was called a “dog trot” since a dog could trot between the two sections. Two story homes were the usual configuration because it provided the most space for the cost. Usually, the upstairs was given to bedrooms and the lower portion was the social part with another bedroom or two as well. The downstairs typically would include a dining room, living room, and a parlor. Heating was by use of fireplaces and this home had five of them.

About ten or fifteen years ago, a severe windstorm blew the roof off and a decision had to be made about whether to tear the house down or restore it. The owner at the time, Mr. Joyner, decided to restore it as the basic house was soundly constructed and it was an attractive property. It was considered a grand old house by any standards.

From a historical point of view, this house and others of a like kind are a part of the local area’s heritage. Some are obviously in better shape and of a better design. This particular one is a good example of one of the best in the area and well worth retaining. The house is set back from the road and gives a pleasing sight with a long drive to the front door. As is the case in many homesteads, there is a cemetery associated with the house as burying family members on the property was a normal practice. In fact, there were two burial plots on the site, one a Flanagan site and one a Moore site.

For family members, even in later generations, coming back to visit the old homes is a joy and gives one a chance to reconnect with those who are our forbearers. It takes some care to keep the house in good repair and even the burial plots need attention. Still, a chance to stay in touch with our heritage is worth some effort.